In 2010, the United States Supreme Court issued a ruling regarding campaign financing in the landmark case [*Citizens United* *v. Federal Election Commission*](http://www.oyez.org/cases/2000-2009/2008/2008_08_205). Few rulings in recent times have attracted as much attention or drawn as much controversy as *Citizens United.* In this activity, you will debate whether the decision is good for America.

Directions:

* Students will be divided into two teams and will randomly be assigned a point of view from which to debate.
* Teams will have one in-class workday to prepare their arguments.
  + Each team must have a minimum of **three** reasons supporting their point of view
  + Each reason must be supported by a minimum of **three** pieces of evidence, such as:
    - A news article or story from a relevant source
    - A quote from a relevant politician, educator, etc.
    - A statistical figure
    - \*Evidence must be cited in your debate research
  + Students may choose to use the attached debates note organizer, or choose to organize their notes in a different way. Notes will need to be turned in following debate.
* Teams will then engage in debate during class the following day

Grading:

* 20 points: Debate Research
  + Research is turned in following debate and adheres to guidelines listed above
  + Supporting evidence is taken from reliable sources, which are cited
* 10 points: Debate Performance (Group)
  + Group demonstrates an excellent understanding of the subject matter
  + Group responds exceptionally well to opposing arguments
* 5 points: Debate Performance (Individual)
  + Student exhibits respectful and appropriate behavior during debate
  + Student offers at least one constructive comment during debate
* 5 points: Group Evaluation
  + Students will be evaluated by their group members based on their contributions to the group’s overall goals

**Debate Notes Organizer**

My argument is that:    
 

Evidence that supports my argument:    
 

 

Evidence against my argument:    
 

   
   
Rebuttal to evidence against my argument: